

College hosts Colonial Relays
Featuring 16 All-American collegiate runners, this storied track meet today kicks off its 43rd year.
See RELAYS page 8



Lake Matoaka Heroes
Gym Class Heroes rocked and rapped up a jam-packed Lake Matoaka amphitheater Wednesday night.
See HEROES page 6

The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary ♦ Est. 1911

VOL.97, NO.42

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

FLATHATNEWS.COM

The casualties of war



MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT

Anti-war group CODEPink displayed 113 pairs of boots in the Sunken Garden Wednesday and Thursday to represent fallen Virginia soldiers.

Exhibit displayed boots of fallen Virginia soldiers to inspire thought about war

By **ANDY GARDEN**
Flat Hat Staff Writer

One hundred and thirteen pairs of boots filled part of the Sunken Garden Wednesday and Thursday as anti-war group CODEPink hosted Eyes Wide Open, a memorial to Virginia's fallen Iraq war soldiers.

The exhibit was supposed to take place one day earlier. Organizers delayed it one day because they feared damaging the boots in Tuesday's rainy weather.

"The boots are insured for around \$1 million," Margaret Smith '10 said. "It's not a chance CODEPink wanted to risk."

Co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, the memorial is part of a national exhibition of all American deaths in Iraq. It has been

touring the country since January 2004, when AFSC displayed boots in Chicago's Federal Plaza.

CODEPink activists and exhibition co-sponsors Shirin Wertime '10 and Julie Somor '10 said that the exhibition was designed to make people stop and think, but was not designed as a protest of the war.

Although the exhibition is billed as a non-political memorial, the sponsors did say that people have accused them of making a political statement with Eyes Wide Open. A promotional e-mail for the exhibition described CODEPink as "a national, women-initiated, grassroots, peace and social justice movement working to end the war in Iraq."

"Some might interpret it as having a slant, but we're trying to highlight the financial, political and human cost of the war," Wertime said. "We're calling it a memorial."

According to Somor, the memorial has attracted attention from College students and staff, with several people looking for the boots representing fallen friends and relatives. Many of the boots contain personal mementos, such as photographs, flags and favorite candies.

"I think we have a very non-political approach," Somor said. "It's a very respectful exhibit."

AFSC promotional materials from the exhibition highlight the financial and social costs of the war. An AFSC pamphlet urged people to lobby Congress to defund the war and redirect the money to social programs in the United States and Iraq.

Wertime denied that the exhibition was a political statement.

"That's not the focus here," she said. "Whether you support the war or not, we can all come together over remembrance."

Police pursue student

Police were looking yesterday for Andrew Seve '10

By **ISSHIN TESHIMA**
Flat Hat Assoc. News Editor

Williamsburg City police officers interrupted a microeconomics exam yesterday morning in a search to find Andrew Seve '10.

"About maybe halfway through the exam, a lady comes in and asked [for] Andrew Seve," Christian Dutilh '11, who was also taking the exam at the time, said. "He's wasn't in class, so he didn't come up."

Williamsburg police allegedly entered about five minutes later and asked the professor if they could do a facial survey of all the students to make sure that Seve was not in the room. Police then proceeded to match the students with a computer printout of Seve's face that was in their possession.

"Everybody was sort of confused, but sort of worried at the same time," Jenice Lacks '11, one of the students in the class, said. "It was awkward, but also random."

Both Lacks and Dutilh reported having a sense of anxiety over what Seve could have done to warrant the police search.

"I was kind of worried with all the different stuff that's been going on at the College," Lacks said.

Dutilh said that most of the students were fairly confused.

"Everybody in the class was kind of shaken up and looking around [thinking] what possibly could this kid have done?" Dutilh said.

See **POLICE** page 4



SPENCER ATKINSON — THE FLAT HAT

Andrew Seve '10 played piano last night at Homebrew.

IT blames e-mail outage on glitch

Hundreds of thousands of e-mails held up

By **ALEX GUILLÉN**
Flat Hat News Editor

It was every student's worst nightmare: no e-mail.

Monday morning, a routine software update caused the College's e-mail system to crash, cutting off access to all College e-mail accounts for the day.

College Chief Information Officer Courtney Carpenter explained that several weeks ago, Mirapoint, the fourth-largest provider of corporate e-mail and the College's vendor, released an update for the e-mail software.

"We want to stay current," Carpenter said.

The update, however, caused a slowdown in the e-mail system, so the company released a "patch" to fix the problem.

At 6 a.m. Monday, Information Technology employees attempted to install the patch. The outage was expected to last six or seven minutes, according to Carpenter, but the patch

unexpectedly began to sort and verify hundreds of gigabytes of information stored in the e-mail system. Mirapoint warned against a manual override.

"We had to let that thing run all day long," Carpenter said. An interruption would potentially corrupt all of the data.

The patch finished updating Monday afternoon, but the day-long outage had created a backlog of "literally hundreds of thousands of e-mail messages," Carpenter said. The backlog created a new cascade of software problems.

Mirapoint engineers and IT employees spent the week working to correct all of the problems, and Carpenter says that they are nearly finished.

"Everything should be back up," he said, noting that disabled e-mail forwarding on some accounts is the final major problem to fix. "There's still some intermittent problems here and there that the company's working on, and as you can imagine we're putting a lot of pressure on them to get this thing fixed."

Door of senator vandalized

Noted anti-Nichol student alleges Nichol supporters responsible

By **MAXIM LOTT**
Flat Hat News Editor

Between 4 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, the dorm room door of Sen. Joe Luppino-Esposito '08 was covered in shaving cream, and copies of The Virginia Informer were taped across the doorway. Luppino-Esposito is a graduating senator in the Student Assembly and the co-founder of The Virginia Informer, a conservative publication on campus.

Luppino-Esposito said that he heard a gushing noise outside his door as he was about to go to bed and, thinking that someone had turned the water on in the maintenance closet across from his room, went out to turn it off.

"I opened the door, and there were newspapers over my head," Luppino-Esposito said.

Luppino-Esposito said that he believes the incident to be politically motivated and done by supporters of former President Gene Nichol, citing the symbol of a campus group called Spades that had been left above his door. The group stretched a pro-Nichol banner across the Crim Dell bridge after Nichol's resignation.

Luppino-Esposito said that April Fool's Day did not excuse the incident.

"If someone had done an April Fool's joke to offend someone's race or religion on [the] other side, I don't think we'd be looking at the date," he said.

The College said that it is investigating the matter. Brian Whitson of University Relations said that the College is



COURTESY PHOTO — JOE LUPPINO-ESPOSITO

Joe Luppino-Esposito's '08 door was vandalized Tuesday morning.

See **VANDALISM** page 3

NEWSINSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

25 Campus Center, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. 23185
Editorial Dept. (757) 221-3281 — Advertising Dept. (757) 221-3283 — Fax (757) 221-3242
THE FLAT HAT — editor@flathatnews.com
NEWS — news@flathatnews.com VARIETY — variety@flathatnews.com SPORTS — sports@flathatnews.com
REVIEWS — reviews@flathatnews.com OPINIONS — opinions@flathatnews.com
ADVERTISING — ads@flathatnews.com

Austin Wright, *Editor-in-Chief*
Jeff Dooley, *Managing Editor* — Alice Hahn, *Executive Editor*
Patrick Bisceglia, *Business Manager* — Helen Chacon, *Accountant*
Alex Guillén, *News Editor* Sarah Sibley, *Opinions Editor*
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Corrections

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Weather

Friday


High 79°
Low 66°

Saturday


High 72°
Low 50°

Sunday


High 67°
Low 52°

Source: www.weather.com

Quote of the Week

“... as you can imagine we’re putting a lot of pressure on them to get this thing fixed.”
— Chief Information Officer Courtney Carpenter in response to the problems with the College’s email provider.
See **E-MAIL OUTAGE** page 1

News in Brief

Virginia Commonwealth University now Tier 3

July 1, Virginia Commonwealth University will gain “Tier 3” status, a rank that allows them greater openness in certain administrative duties such as hiring. The concept of “tiered schools” was created in 2005 when the State Council of Higher Education sought a system to classify schools in order to enact and monitor the achievement of goals for Virginia’s public institutions. VCU originally qualified for Tier 3 status in 2005; however, the public school declined to seek the status due to the installation of a new computer system.
The university will join University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and the College as the only schools in the state to have that status.

Former presidential aide dies at 79

Former Deputy National Security Advisor William G. Hyland died at the age of 79 from an aortic aneurysm March 25 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. An expert on U.S.-Soviet affairs, Hyland served both the Nixon and Ford administrations at the National Security Council. He was also a member of the State Department during Nixon’s presidency and an aide to President Ford four years later.
“Clearly, he was one of three or four people who shaped our policy toward the Soviet Union and arms control,” Winston Lord, former president of the Council on Foreign Relations, said of Hyland in the March 31 issue of the Washington Post.
He is survived by his wife of 53 years, two sons and four grandchildren.

— by Isshin Teshima and Maggie Reeb

By the Numbers

250
The number of databases available online through the Earl Gregg Swem Library. Most of these give access to academic journals.

1.1 million
The number of homeschooled students in grades K-12, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

23 miles per hour
The speed reached by Michael Johnson in 1996 when he ran the 200-meter-dash in under 20 seconds. According the Guinness Book of World Records, this is the world record for sprinting such a distance.

34 days
The time it will take the Olympic torch to go around the world and return to Beijing. The torch began its journey Monday.

— by Maxim Lott

BEYOND THE BURG



COURTESY PHOTO — WIKIPEDIA.ORG
Former First Daughter Chelsea Clinton speaks to College students on behalf of her mother’s campaign.

Chelsea Clinton visits N. Carolina

Clinton hopes to rally Hillary supporters for the state’s primary

By **MAGGIE REEB**
Flat Hat Assoc. Insight Editor

North Carolina State University, Peace College and University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill hosted speaker Chelsea Clinton, daughter of former President Bill Clinton and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, March 31. She was brought to the campus as part of the “Our Voices, Our Future” tour, launched in the beginning of 2008 to reach out to young voters.

According to the Charlotte Observer, Clinton drew crowds of several hundred students at all universities, where she held question-and-answer sessions covering topics such as higher education costs and the war in Iraq.

The former president’s daughter emphasized the importance of the youth vote for her mother’s campaign. She also criticized the current administration’s “war

on science” and withdrawal from agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

“I think the world will breathe a sigh of relief when this president is gone,” she said at N.C. State.

Clinton continuously tried to distinguish her mother’s campaign from her father’s presidency.

“A vote for Hillary is a vote for Hillary,” she said. “I don’t think you should vote for or against my mother based on my father.”

Clinton, however, could not avoid questions about her father’s presidency. During her talk at UNC, an audience member asked her about the Monica Lewinsky scandal, which she refused to discuss.

“It’s none of your business,” Clinton said as the crowd applauded.

The youngest Clinton was well received overall, according to George Drometer, UNC Young

Democrats co-president.

“Just judging by the number of people who came, there was a lot of interest,” Drometer said.

There are 29,702 more registered voters in the 18 to 24-year-old bracket in North Carolina since the last presidential primary. According to Associate Director for Democracy NC Jennifer Frye, young voter turnout has “tripled or quadrupled” since 2000 in response to the Iraq war and the failing economy.

“College-age voters, 18 to 24-year-olds, are making the difference in a lot of primaries across the country,” Frye said.

Members of Senator Hillary Clinton’s campaign as well as those in Senator Barack Obama’s camp will make numerous stops throughout North Carolina before the presidential primary May 6. The state has 115 delegates and 19 unpledged superdelegates for the taking.

This week in Flat Hat history

1928

The College library acquired a 125-year-old algebra book once used in an ancient school.

1959

King Hussein of Jordan visited the College over spring vacation. Winthrop Rockefeller, the chairman of Colonial Williamsburg, greeted the king and his 15 member party. The young leader signed autographs in the College yard before leaving to tour other sights in the area.

1970

Five students were arrested for narcotics charges as part of a sting operation set up by police. Two undercover agents had been impersonating students for weeks leading up to the raid of the Bryan Complex. The five students had consumed marijuana and sold the drug and associated paraphernalia. The College decided not to take disciplinary action while the group awaited trial later in the month.

1997

Senior Dave Sobel convinced six fellow students to write about their lives and post it in a blog he created called “The University Center.” Sobel modeled his project off several other websites of the time that chronicled fictional characters’ lives much like soap operas. All cast-members were given pseudonyms to ensure some anonymity.

— compiled by Maggie Reeb

STREET BEAT

What do you think of sexual assault prevention efforts on Campus?



I feel comforted every time I see a blue light.

Katie Hutchinson '11



I feel very well-informed, especially with the orientation programs.

Kaitlyn Adkins '11



I don’t know anything about it.

Michelle Ahn '10



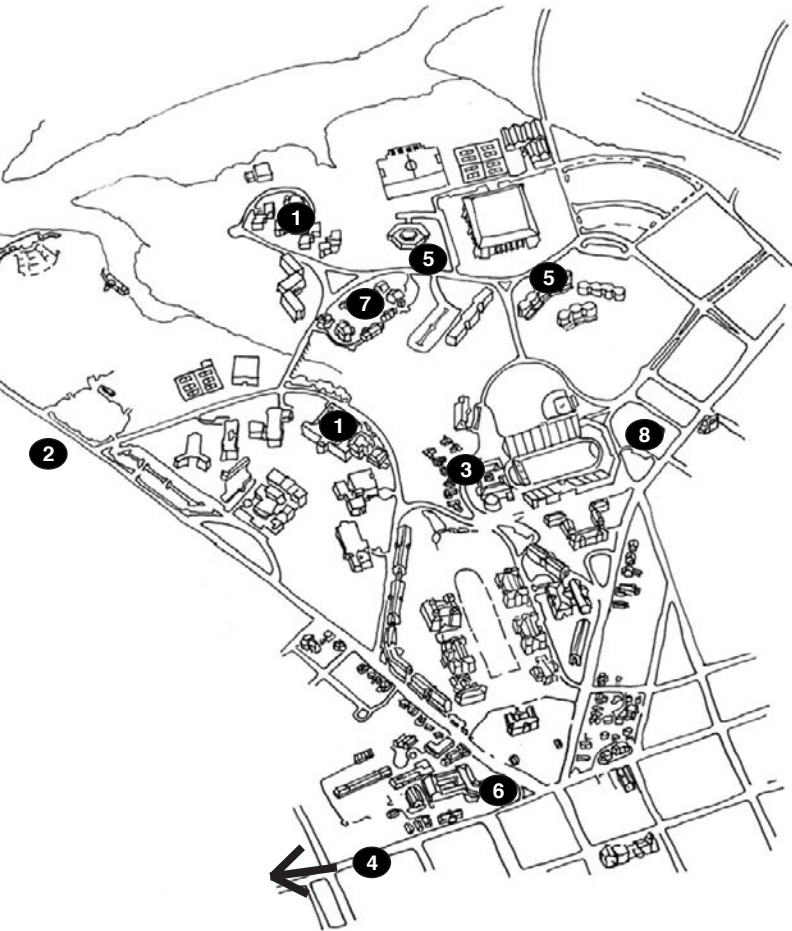
One in Four and Every Two Minutes do a pretty good job.

Sarah Sajewski '10

— photos and interviews by Caitlin Fairchild

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT

Mar. 25 to Mar. 30



Monday, March 25 — A Residence Life staff member reported that her car parked in the Swem overflow lot had been keyed. The estimated damage is \$200. **1**

— A student reported that his parking pass had been stolen from his car parked in the the Ludwell Complex. Its estimated value is \$130. **2**

Wednesday, March 27 — A student reported his bike was stolen from the bike rack outside of the Daily Grind. Its estimated value is \$100. **3**

— A Student reported that gasoline had been siphoned from his vehicle parked in the Graduate Complex. It is unknown if any gasoline was stolen, but the gasoline tank cap was stolen. Its estimated value is \$20. **4**

Thursday, March 28 — A student was arrested for allegedly being drunk in public and alleged underage possession of alcohol outside of the units. **5**

— A student stated that his bike, which had been reported stolen in 2007, was found in the bike rack in front of the main entrance to Swem. The estimated recovered value is \$200. **1**

Friday, March 29 — A student was arrested off of S. Boundary St. near the Reves Center for an alleged DUI and refusing to submit to a breathalyzer test. **6**

Saturday, March 30 — A student was arrested for allegedly being drunk in public and alleged underage possession of alcohol outside of the Randolph Complex. **7**

— A student was arrested for allegedly being drunk in public and alleged underage possession of alcohol near the Alumni House. **8**

— compiled by Maggie Reeb

Pinsker '09 backs three SA bills

By NARISSA DALLA and MARY BELLINI
The Flat Hat

Fourteen senators were present at this week's hour-long Student Assembly meeting and four new bills were discussed. Sen. Matt Pinsker '09 introduced three of the bills.

After the meeting began with the reading and approval of minutes, Chairman of the senate Walter McClean '09 sponsored the Blue Books Extension Act, a bill to continue funding blue books for professors at the College. The administration was supposed to take over funding blue books this year, but due to a miscommunication concerning administrative support, this is no longer the case. The bill would give \$5,000 from the Student Consolidated Reserve to Auxiliary Services to continue funding blue books for the 2008-2009 academic year.

In addition, the Student Assembly would give \$700 from the Student Consolidated Reserve to Auxiliary Services immediately to fund blue books for the remainder of the academic year. The bill will be discussed in more detail and voted on in next week's meeting.

Pinsker then introduced the first of his three bills, the Queen's Guard Act. This legislation aims to reinstate the traditional performance of the Queen's Guard at the annual King and Queen's Ball, which will be held on April 18. The drill show was a tradition at the College and was only stopped in 2001 due to safety concerns, although there is actually no record of any injuries occurring. In addition to the connections with the College's legacy of traditions and royal charter foundation, Pinsker argued that the

new formation of the Queen's Guard will consist of only about six to eight performers rather than 20, as in the former formation. The bill will be on next week's agenda to be examined further.

Pinsker's second act was the Mascot Recommendation Act. The act calls for the senate to strongly recommend to the mascot creation committee that a phoenix be named as the new mascot of the College, and that the mascot be unveiled at the first home football game of the 2008 season. Pinsker believes that "a mascot adds an exciting element to sporting events" and that there is a connection between the College's history and the phoenix as a symbol.

The phoenix design created by Manual Guardian in "The College's Choice" logo competition was popular among students, Pinsker said. The bill will be discussed further before being subject to votes.

The last act introduced by Pinsker was the Kegs Act, a bill designed to reduce waste and increase drinking-related safety. The basis of this bill is essentially to clean the campus of aluminum cans, their boxes and broken glass shards. The bill would call for the administration to alter its policy and allow kegs back on campus, provided that all state and local laws are obeyed.

It also charges the sponsor of this bill and the executive department of College policy with working with the administration to achieve this goal. This act, along with Pinsker's other two bills, is subject to discussion.

After new business was addressed, Matt Beato '09 made some public comments and then Sen. Caroline Mullis '09 moved to end the meeting by unanimous consent.

Under the MICRSCOPE

EXPLOSION SETS RECORD FOR FURTHEST OBJECT VISIBLE BY HUMAN EYE

Kara Starr
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST



A minor speck of light flashed March 19, barely illuminating the night sky, representing the death of a star long before Earth's formation. In the constellation Boötes, in a galaxy located 7.5 billion light years away from Earth, this burst was the grand finale of enormous gamma ray explosions, notorious among astronomers for their violence and magnitude.

This explosive gamma ray burst, named GRB 080319B for the date of its sighting, set the record for the most distant object visible to the naked human eye. (New York Times) Although barely visible, this burst was 10 million times as bright as a supernova would have appeared at the same distance from Earth, according to NASA experts. Gamma ray bursts are believed to be the most luminous explosions to follow the big bang, and this particular burst had an afterglow 2.5 million times more luminous than the previous record holder, qualifying this burst as the brightest object to be observed by Earth. (Fox News)

Gamma ray bursts usually indicate the collision of dense neutron stars or the implosion of a massive star running out of nuclear fuel, causing a black hole to form in its place. The collision or implosion results in the explosive burst of high-energy gamma

rays, along with the release of inflamed particle jets that race through the universe at just under the speed of light. This particular star was 40 times larger than our sun.

Given that the universe is approximately 14 billion years old, the light from the Boötes burst has been travelling to our line of vision for half the age of the universe, long before the formation of our solar system. The burst was detected by NASA's Swift satellite, which alerted numerous self-operating telescopes across the world to redirect their attention to the coordinates specified by the satellite. These telescopes captured the optical afterglow of the brief burst. (New York Times)

By recording and inspecting the spectral measurements of the burst, the telescopes were able to calculate the approximate distance of the glow. This is done by measuring the glow's redshift – or the shift that emits red waves representing the object's movement away from the observer – and estimations based on similar data of locations in an ever-expanding universe. (New York Times) Both the Hobby-Eberly Telescope in Texas and the Very Large Telescope in Chile measured the redshift to be 0.94, indicating a distance of about 7.5 billion light years.

It is still unknown to astronomers why this particular burst was so powerful and its afterglow so luminous. Some have theorized that the burst was simply more energetic than most, due to the mass, velocity or magnetic field power surrounding the preexisting star.

SA, sexual assault groups push co-ed program

Program would focus on miscommunication between sexes, sexual assault office worried about lack of precedent

By CARL SIEGMUND
Flat Hat Senior Staff Writer

Members of the SA and several campus organizations met Wednesday night to hammer out the details of a proposed co-educational sexual discussion program that would supplement current sexual assault prevention programs such as One in Four and Every Two Minutes, which are both aimed at single-sex audiences.

SA vice president Valerie Hopkins '09 gathered the focus group in the middle of Sexual Assault Awareness Week and hopes that by next spring the program will be off and running.

"Every Two Minutes and One in Four do a great job discussing how to help out sexual assault survivors," Hopkins said. "This aims to pre-empt a lot of that and focuses on how to have healthy discussions about sexual relations."

At last month's SA presidential debate, challenger Adam Rosen '09 stated that Hopkins' co-ed discussion program would be "dangerous," citing research by Dr. John Foubert. Foubert is the founder of the all-male sexual assault prevention group One in Four and an assistant professor of higher education at the College.

According to Foubert's research, single-sex environments are more effective for educating college students about sexual assault than co-ed environments.

"My understanding is that the Sexual Assault Office is working closely with One in Four and Every Two Minutes to come up with a program that is co-ed. I think that is worth trying," Foubert said. "At the end of day, though, our efforts are best spent using programmatic methods that are shown to work with research, which is not something I've

heard Hopkins and [SA president Zach] Pilchen advocate. The two of them have showed a naïveté surrounding sexual assault."

Hopkins said there is plenty of evidence to support Foubert's sexual assault research. However, according to Trisha Hunsaker, a Sexual Assault Educator at the College helping the SA create the new program, there is a lack of research when it comes to co-ed discussion.

"There are no studies evaluating programs similar to this one," she said. "It is cutting edge in what it is trying to do."

Katie Dixon '09, a member of Every Two Minutes and one of three SA undersecretaries of health and safety for sexual assault prevention, explained that the co-ed program is not intended to be a sexual assault prevention program. Instead, it would help alleviate

miscommunication between students engaging in sexual activity and deal with issues related to healthy relationships such as what qualifies as consent.

At Wednesday's focus group meeting, campus leaders discussed logistical concerns they had with the program, which could be unveiled as early as next fall and is targeted towards second-semester freshmen. Hopkins said the focus group has consulted with Morgan Berman '08, SA undersecretary of diversity initiatives for gender affairs, who is working to make sure the co-ed program is inclusive for gay and lesbian students.

"We want to make sure it's comfortable for everyone," Hopkins said. "Anything that encourages dialogue is positive."

Dixon also said it was critical for the focus group to consider the size of the co-ed discussions. For example, if two



COURTESY PHOTO — WWW.WMEDU
Dr. John Foubert, founder of One in Four has concerns with the co-ed approach.

34-person male and female halls were paired together it might be hard to facilitate a dialogue. Additionally, there might be a tendency for both sexes to self-segregate on opposite sides of the room.

She said that in both cases a smaller group dynamic would be necessary.

Student suspects politics-based prank

VANDALISM from page 1

taking the incident seriously but that it is currently unknown whether the incident is "a college prank or something more directed."

There was no permanent damage to the door.

Both the Young Democrats and the College Republicans have condemned the incident.

College Republicans President Stephen Salvato '10 said that discrimination against conservative students on campus was common.

"It ends up being the conservative student on campus who is the victim of such types of intolerance," Salvato said.

He added that although other groups are also discriminated against, he has personally seen this discrimination toward conservative groups of which he is a part.

According to Salvato,

Students for Life had their flyers vandalized so much that they met with Nichol to discuss the situation.

"Needless to say, little has been done," Salvato added.

Luppino-Esposito also cited an incident from early 2006 in which a girl distributing pro-life literature at a rally was hit in the face as an example of discrimination against conservatives.

In a press release Tuesday, Luppino-Esposito called on the College to provide a "safe haven" for conservatives from "radicals who want to silence them."

Whitson expressed concern, but said the College was generally welcoming.

"We certainly would be concerned if any students felt they could not express themselves freely or felt intimidated for exercising their rights to free speech," he wrote in an e-mail. "That being said, I think [the] overwhelming majority of this

campus community understands and values the importance of these freedoms."

Luppino-Esposito said that he will be filing criminal charges; if the College deems it a "bias incident," he plans to file under that as well.

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Kimball Theatre
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Persepolis (PG-13)
Fri., Apr. 4-Fri., Apr. 11
6, 7:45 and 9:30 p.m.
Apr. 4-10 screening room (35 seats)

Coming Attractions

The Tournées Festival presents
Bamako Not rated
Apr. 6 at 7 p.m.
Screening is free, tickets required

Live Performances

The College of William and Mary's
Improvitational Theatre
Fri., Apr. 4 at 8 p.m.
Adults \$10, Students \$5

The William and Mary Music Department presents
Feirefiz: A Multiarts Retelling of the Parzival Story
Sat., Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$15, Students \$10

The Williamsburg Symphonia presents
Subscription Concert #4
Tues., Apr. 8 and Wed., Apr. 9 at 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$42, \$30. Advance tickets are available through
The Williamsburg Symphonia; call (757) 229-9857

Laughing Redhead Studio presents
Clean Comedy Night
Featuring Leland Klassen
Sat., Apr. 12 at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show

FIRE says College restricts freedom of speech

By **RACHEL RUDEBUSCH**
The Flat Hat

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education ranked the College as “red,” meaning that the organization believes that the College has at least one policy “that both clearly and substantially restricts freedom of speech.”

Braum Katz ’10 is heading an effort to revise the College’s current policy.

FIRE was founded by author Alan Charles Kors, who, along with Harvey A. Silvergate, wrote “The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America’s Campuses.”

FIRE handles cases from students and faculty of U.S. institutions of higher education who feel that their rights have been violated. If the case cannot be solved by FIRE’s office staff, it is referred to its legal network, a group of pro bono attorneys.

Additionally, FIRE reviews institutions and publicizes its results, operating under the notion that “illiberal university policies and practices must be exposed to public criticism and scrutiny so that the public is made aware of the violations of basic rights that occur every day on college campuses,” according to its website. The Individual Rights Education Program is the branch of FIRE created to deal specifically with this task.

The Individual Rights Education Program reviews universities’ policies, media coverage of free speech issues and previous cases on file to determine a rating — green being the best, red the

worst and yellow somewhere in between.

FIRE justifies its ranking the College as red by citing both policies and media coverage of controversies dating as far back as 2003, as well as a case in which the College allegedly suppressed an affirmative action bake sale in 2005.

Katz interned for FIRE last summer and has written entries on their website.

Katz is proposing revisions to the College’s current policies, mainly focusing on making them more specific.

SA President Elect and current Vice President Valerie Hopkins said that she thought student and faculty First Amendment rights were being limited.

“I don’t know if I’d say [the administration] is abusing their power, but policies need to be less vague,” Hopkins said. “The administration is the sole arbiter of power, so that can land you in sticky water. Less gray area can’t hurt.”

According to FIRE’s website, one such policy is the College’s stance on tolerance, respect, sensitivity, hate and hate speech. Under this policy, the College defines harassment as “abusive conduct that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to threaten an individual or limit the ability of the individual to work, study, or participate in College activities.”

In order to help expose such policies and advocate for students’ First Amendment rights, the SA opened a Department of Student Rights for the first time in history, headed by Katz. It has also appointed a free speech advocate to speak on



SPENCER ATKINSON — THE FLAT HAT
Professors speak at a rally shortly after the Feb. 12 resignation of former College President Gene Nichol. FIRE considers the protection and teaching of individual rights to be a key goal for collegiate institutions.

behalf of students who come to the department with issues or concerns.

“It’s disappointing that any school, especially a state school, has such a ranking,” Hopkins said. “These [proposed] changes to our code of conduct are great, but I’m sure they’re not the only things that need to be done. What happened with the Sex Workers’ Art Show was unconstitutional and shouldn’t be allowed to happen again in the future.”

College professors communicate through Facebook

By **ANA MOROIANU**
The Flat Hat

With an increasing number of College professors creating open Facebook profiles, students can now find out that their history professor’s favorite show is Weeds, and that their German professor enjoys snorkeling, Indian food and good

conversation.

Professors who are part of the popular social networking site list its many benefits — including being able to reconnect with College alumni and colleagues and network with groups and organizations in their respective fields — as the reason they joined.

Elizabeth Wiley, a theatre, speech

and dance professor, has had a Facebook profile for a couple years. She initially joined because she wanted to put a face with the name of one of her students.

“Once on board, I realized what a major mode of communication it is for students, not just socially, but also disseminating information on interest groups and so on. I felt it was impor-

tant for me to understand how students network and share information,” she said. Wiley added that it is also a useful avenue in announcing things like auditions, performances and meetings.

History professor Scott Nelson has over 85 friends on Facebook in the College network.

“It has allowed me to keep track of those students years ago who I’ve wanted to know about,” he said. “I have Facebook friends who were undergrads back in 1994. This way I can keep tabs on my favorite students without e-mailing or calling. The big problem with being a college professor is that it’s hard to know what happened to your former students unless you call them or call the alumni office. This is much easier.”

While it is true that some professors have embraced the social networking trend, others have more reserved feelings about it.

Psychology professor John Nezlek believes that social networking sites like Facebook are not necessary for his professional life.

“I am not certain how more openness on the part of faculty, regardless of the medium through which the openness occurs, affects student-faculty relationships,” he said. “On the one hand, it may enhance the personal nature of student-faculty relationships; on the other hand, it might somehow interfere

with the task-focus aspect of the relationship.”

Student reaction to professors having Facebook profiles ranges from general acceptance to surprised disbelief.

“Student response has covered the range from ‘They let professors on here?’ to ‘Hey, Liz — cool!’ Mostly the response from students has been positive,” Wiley said.

Alden McCray ’11 said that Facebook was a great way to communicate more easily with professors.

“It’s an interesting way to keep in touch with them and learn more about them. It’s also another way you get to see professors outside the classroom; it adds a dimension of reality to them,” McCray said.

Students may learn some interesting facts about their professors which would not ordinarily be shared in a classroom setting.

“I’ve actually added some things that I don’t regularly tell students — that I had a lot of different jobs, and that I was a hacker back in the 1980s,” Nelson said.

Wiley repeated many professors’ feelings about social networking sites like Facebook.

“[They are] highly useful, potentially, and yet at the same time we are becoming more and more a computer society with fewer and fewer real life interactions,” she said.



PHOTO TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK.COM
Many professors have started using Facebook as a means of connecting more to students as well as reconnecting with alumni.

Police search for student

POLICE from page 1

Seve was spotted yesterday in Lodge 1 around 7 p.m. playing as part of a Homebrew act. A student who asked to remain anonymous said that he heard rumors that police were looking for Seve, and notified police that

he was in the premises. Police arrived shortly after, but Seve had apparently left Lodge 1 by the time the police had arrived on the scene.

According to two friends in the audience who claimed to be good friends of Seve’s, he was planning on talking to police

immediately after the show last night.

The reasons for the classroom search remain unknown.

College Police Chief Don Challis could not be reached for comment.

Check flatthatnews.com for updates on the story.

WHEN DO CLASSES FILL UP? PERCENTAGE OF CLASSES FULL AFTER REGISTRATION TIME

Department	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Department	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores
Government	21%	55%	89%	English	8%	27%	60%
Sociology	0	17	87	Art	9	27	59
Philosophy	11	37	84	Economics	5	27	54
History	26	55	74	Biology	14	29	36
Psychology	10	31	69	Comp. Sci.	0	0	0

— chart by Maxim Lott

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Serenity, not controversy

You probably haven’t heard much out of the College recently. After the 18 months of near-constant controversy, a quiet March has signaled a return to semi-normalcy. The fate of the College no longer hangs in the balance with each passing day of uncertainty and unrest. Mid-terms have come to a welcome end, and though final papers loom just a few weeks out, for now we can all take a moment or two to soak in spring at the College.

Perhaps next fall the search for a new president will reignite the same passions that raged at February’s end, but for the time being, the campus has moved on. Indeed, as the grounds burst into bloom and sunbathers sprawl in the Sunken Garden, all but the most allergy-plagued students seem just a little brighter. This relative calm offers us the opportunity to reflect on some aspects of College life that would have been buried in more hectic times.

In particular, we’ve been impressed with Interim College President Taylor Reveley’s efforts to interact with students on campus. Far from holing himself up in his office, he has actively engaged himself in campus events. Just after stepping up to the presidency, Reveley took part in a student question-and-answer session to help allay concerns about the transition.

And, as the men’s basketball team met with improbable post-season success, we found Reveley there as well, cheering them on from the sidelines. This former dean of the law school has experienced no trouble in transferring his passion to the undergraduate population.

Though we may now praise Reveley’s steady hand in guiding the College through turbulent times, he deserves kudos for the law school’s performance as well. Under his guidance, Marshall-Wythe edged forward one spot in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, even as the College continued its skid in the opposite direction. We hold out hope that Reveley’s leadership can effect a turnaround.

To be sure, our new president has yet to truly prove himself, but he’s performed admirably since inheriting the position not 60 days ago. Foreign policy and the weekend’s parties have replaced the presidency and the Board of Visitors as topics for dinner-table conversations on campus. Other student activism has returned in the wake of protests.

Just this week, 12 campus groups came together to promote sexual assault awareness, an issue that could have gone unnoticed in more troubled times. Or, like the Sex Workers’ Art show, it might have morphed into a political football. But it didn’t. The College, thankfully, has lost its lightning rod status. We’ll let you know if we hear of anyone clamoring to get it back.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gender bent out of shape
To the Editor:

Recently, you may have noticed advertisements for various Intro to Women’s Studies Community Action Projects taking place on campus. One project is hosting a Gender Bending Day.

We believe that a strict gender binary and the idea that gender (the social construction of man and woman) must correspond with sex (the biological designation of male and female) raises many problems. Some people feel that their gender is not the same as their birth sex. Others are born inter-sex (with ambiguous genitalia) and are arbitrarily assigned, and sometimes operated on to conform to a male or female gender. Some simply feel that gender is too restrictive.

Why is it acceptable for women to wear pants but not for men to wear skirts? Why are boys afraid to cry, while girls are teased for being tomboys?

Clearly, not everyone agrees that the gender binary should be blurred. We are having trouble advertising for our event.

We posted flyers last week, one reading “What would the world be like without gender?” The other featured a picture of a drag performer.

All around campus, our flyers have been removed from public posting

spaces. In one residence hall, after five days, 19 of 25 flyers had been taken down, two rudely defaced and one ripped to shreds.

Someone, who clearly believes that even controversial views have a right to be expressed, kindly taped that one back together and wrote on it a verse about loving each other.

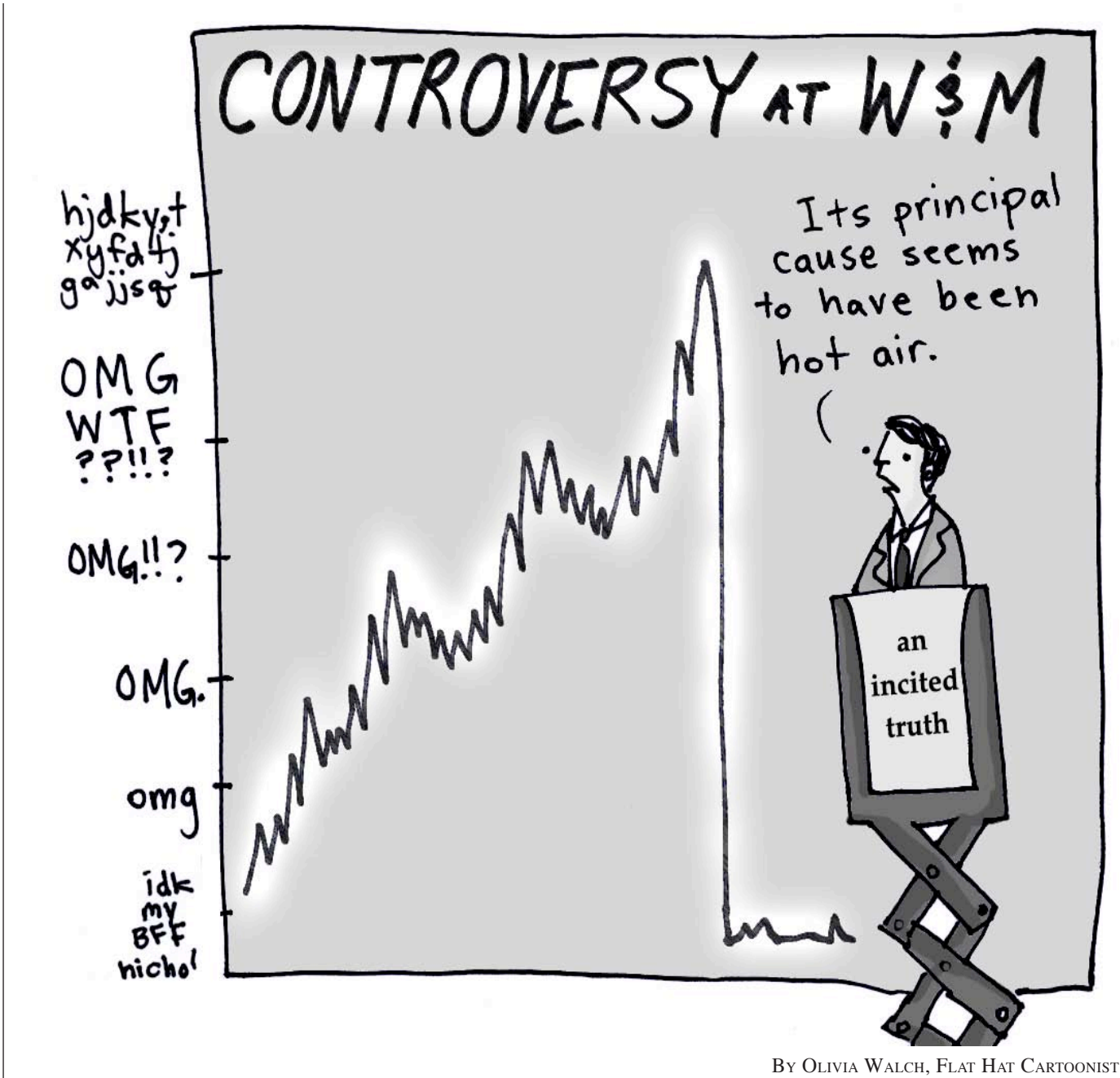
This week’s flyers include cartoons of boys saying, “Boys can like hugs too!”

Four flyers were torn down in as many hours. This is very disheartening to our group’s efforts. To individuals who do not fit traditional masculine or feminine gender roles, this attack could be taken more personally. It is a sad reflection on society when the gender dichotomy is so strictly upheld that people retaliate when they are asked merely to consider challenging it.

We hope that by generating discussion and awareness through Gender Bending Day, we will help our school to truly become the diverse and welcoming community that we want it to be. Please consider joining our efforts by cross-dressing on April 9 and attending our forum in Washington 201 from 6 to 9 p.m. to discuss gender in our society.

— Kathy Middlesex ’11,
Ginny Hutcheson ’11

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor may be no longer than 250 words and Opinions columns no longer than 700 words. Submissions should be e-mailed to opinions@flathatnews.com no later than 5 p.m. Sunday for publication the following Tuesday and 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following Friday. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Due to space constraints, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. All staff editorials reflect the position of The Flat Hat. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.



BY OLIVIA WALCH, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Student needs get bumped

Joanna Sandager
FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



One would think that the prospect of summer would ensure happy faces around campus. A well-deserved three-month break is visible on the horizon, but between finals and class registration it is difficult to put the stresses of this semester, and even the next, on the back burner. When the trials of life seem too much, be thankful for what you have: good friends, a loving family, and a roof over your head. But what if that roof weren’t guaranteed?

The 320 students who are victims of this semester’s involuntary bump processes are faced with this dilemma. In addition to stalking Banner, they must spend the next month fighting with Residence Life and pleading with the landlords of Williamsburg.

Bumped students were kindly greeted by a member of ResLife with a letter explaining their fate, but these students shouldn’t have much to worry about. The Reslife website promises that there is hope for bumped students who are patient. They still have the chance of being reinstated; they are just temporarily excluded from the process. However, temporarily excluded is merely a euphemism for temporarily screwed.

Unfortunately, there are no immediate solutions, but the more changes that are made now, the fewer the number of students who will be burdened in the future. The problem is twofold: The College does not have an adequate number of dorms to accommodate its students, and the alternative housing options in Williamsburg are virtually

When push comes to shove, as the bump process shows, it isn’t just the city of Williamsburg treating us poorly.

unattainable given the lack of affordable housing and the stigma given to students. Many think the potential election of Matt Beato ’09 to City Council will change the situation in Williamsburg.

While I believe Beato would be an indispensable voice for College students and the community, some responsibility rests on the College to look out for its students. Beato and the Student Assembly should be commended for turning a student temper tantrum into a respectable arena for communication and change, but when push comes to shove, as the bump process shows, it isn’t just the City of Williamsburg treating us poorly.

Last week, Mayor Jeanne Zeidler and Vice Mayor and Economics Department Chair Clyde Haulman participated in a forum to discuss affordable housing, but their lip service only addressed solutions for low-income workers and commuters. They audaciously call for the help of students who participate in efforts like Habitat for Humanity to resolve this issue, yet are not willing to return the favor to the students they have made homeless.

However, the mayor and City Council should not take all the blame. The mayor reported that the College has been approached with plans for privately developed, student-oriented housing, but rejected them. If Beato wins a seat in the City Council and the city does not make the changes the students are petitioning for, will all hope be lost?

The College needs to step in and address its own housing issues by drawing up plans for more dormitories and student-oriented housing. When Williamsburg denies us our voices and tells us we could ruin its small-town charm with more student housing, it is the responsibility of the College to step up and find alternative solutions; we are the charm of the College.

Joanna Sandager is a freshman at the College.

Keeping the balance between intellect and pretension

Dan Piepenbring
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER



If there is one word humanities majors love to use, it’s “pretentious.” Accusations of pretentiousness abound in academia.

When wielded in the proper circles, the word is damning; to call a student, professor, artist or idea pretentious is the ultimate dis. But in this, the last full month of my undergraduate career, I’m not so sure I know what it means.

As Susan Jacoby attests in her new book, “The Age of American Unreason,” our nation has a rich history of anti-intellectualism. Jacoby’s claims echo those of Richard Hofstadter, whose “Anti-Intellectualism in American Life” was published in 1963 and remains widely read — at least, as widely read as can be expected of a 1963 intellectual tract. I, for one, haven’t read either

book, though both sound pretty enjoyable. Both authors attempt to disassociate intellect from elitism — a distinction that ought to make its way into the College’s classrooms.

Easier said than done, though. I’ll be the first to grant that genuine pretension exists on this campus, perhaps in spades. In nearly every course I’ve taken, there’s been That One Kid.

You know this kid. He or she is perennially vying for the limelight, eager to air garish, indefensible opinions on any and all subjects. This type is unstoppable. I want very badly to slap them and their parents. They are, by almost any standard, pretentious.

In upper-level humanities courses, the line between pretension and authentic intelligence grows blurrier still. Is it possible, in courses with names like “Philosophy of Mind,” “Literature, Art and Reality” or “British Aesthetic Tradition,” to conduct a conversation without it devolving into namedropping and jargon?

As Thomas Pynchon puts it in his novel, “V.,” discussion is in some ways “little more than proper nouns, literary allusions, critical or philosophical terms linked in certain ways. Depending on how you arrange the building blocks at your disposal, you [are] smart or stupid.” (I actually did read that book.)

To be labeled pretentious is tantamount to being labeled fraudulent — it means people think you’re trying to be something that you’re not.

It’s not that the concepts introduced in these courses are insipid or highfalutin — far from it. But academic language is so specialized, so fraught with argot, that we must inspect our every word to avoid becoming That One Kid.

With every raised hand there’s the concern that our comments are trivial,

ostentatious or pedantic. I care about what my classmates think of me, even if their opinions are radically divergent from my own.

More still, I care about what my professors think of me. This might not be the best way to live — but to claim otherwise would be lying. And here’s where things get weird. To be labeled pretentious is tantamount to being labeled fraudulent — it means people think you’re trying to be something that you’re not. I happen to have a bona fide interest in postmodern literature, existentialist philosophy and other such impractical pursuits. I have no way of proving this to you; for all you know, I’m faking it in hopes of coming off as brainy and cultured.

To a broad swath of the American populace, my knowledge of the word “postmodern” makes me automatically pretentious — I am, to them, That One Kid. I know a couple of big words. I can identify Iraq on a map. By extension, I’m a holier-than-thou prick.

Like many others, then, the word

is defined and applied subjectively. Insofar as objective meaning is concerned, it seems the best we can do is agree that it’s a bad thing to be pretentious.

Nevertheless, America’s trend of anti-intellectualism is worrisome, and college campuses aren’t exempt from its cultural influence. It does seem to me that perfectly well-intentioned students are often labeled pretentious just because they prefer, say, books to television.

That’s a shame, because eschewing the mainstream is not, in and of itself, pretentious. To me, That One Kid would lie about having read “The Age of American Unreason.” He would quote Pynchon where Pynchon need not be quoted, or he would misquote Pynchon entirely.

It’s not pretentious to be “an intellectual,” i.e., to tend toward the highbrow. It’s pretentious to claim these tendencies when you don’t honestly have them.

Dan Piepenbring is a senior at the College.

VARIETY

LIVE MUSIC

Gym Class Heroes rock the lake

Gym Class Heroes bring a cool mix of rock and rap to the College

By GENICE PHILLIPS
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Though it was cool last Wednesday night, hot music blazed at the Lake Matoaka Amphitheater for a UCAB concert featuring Tyga, KidZ in the Hall, I Am the Avalanche and the main act, Gym Class Heroes. With a pure blend of hip-hop and rock, the evening was marked by charismatic flows, thrashing guitar licks and screaming crowd members. Although the doors opened at 6 p.m., a large portion of the audience did not arrive until halfway through the show. Two die-hard fans of Gym Class Heroes, Mary Anna Rodabaugh '10, and Reba Buda '11, had been waiting since 4:30 p.m. to catch front row seats.

"I thought people were going to be lined up outside, but there is no one here," Rodabaugh said.

As students and other concert-goers trickled in, the first performer to take the stage was young emcee and cousin of Travis McCoy (Gym Class Heroes), Tyga. The tattooed 18-year-old quickly moved the crowd with a cover of Britney Spears' "Gimme More," using rhymes of his own to describe money-grubbing techniques. Although there were barely enough people to fill half of the concert space, Tyga and his hype man still invited the crowd up to the front of the amphitheater.

"Everyone needs to come up," he said, as a small crowd encased the stage.

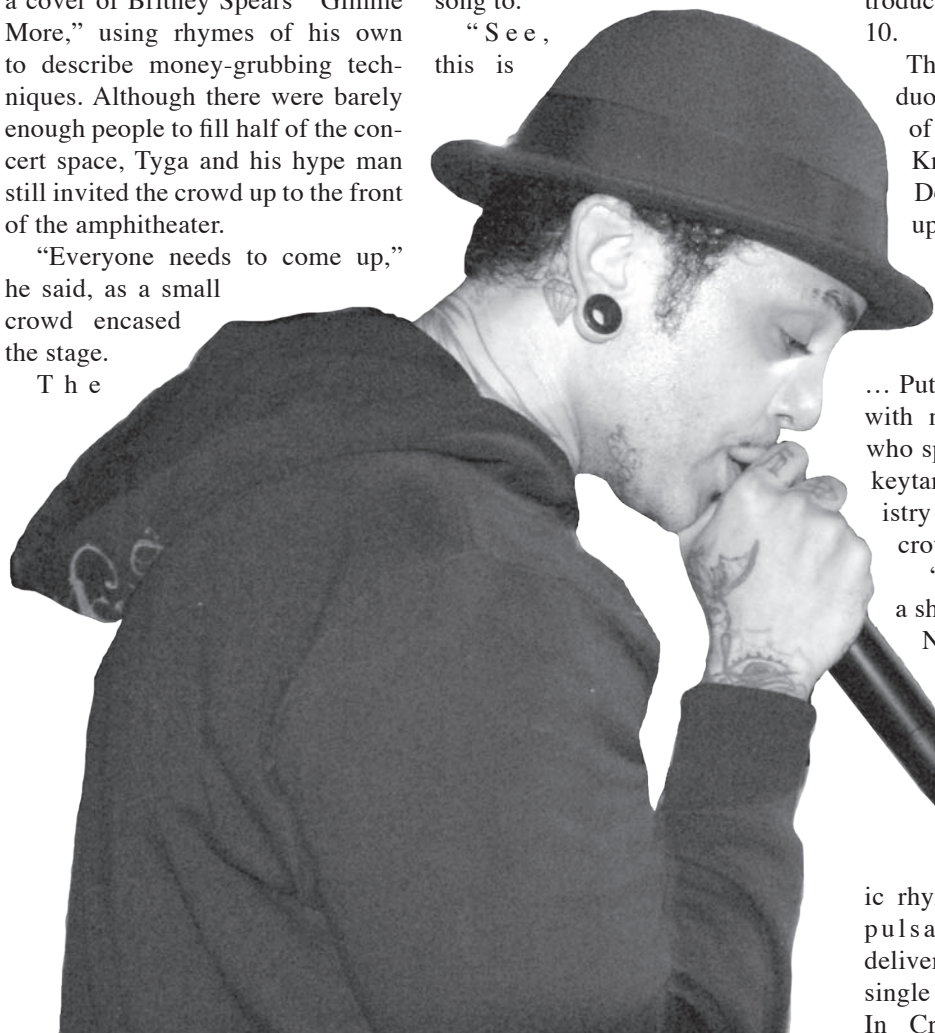
The



PHOTOS BY MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT
Gym Class Heroes performed Wednesday at the Lake Matoaka Amphitheater, playing a number of songs from their second album, "As Cruel As School Children." Tyga, KidZ in the Hall and I Am the Avalanche all opened for Gym Class.

California native rocked back and forth across the stage, delivering swift and animated lyrics that the crowd enjoyed. Breaking into another cover, "Hey There Delilah" by the Plain White T's, Tyga spotted a female in the crowd to dedicate the song to.

"See, this is



what you did to me."

Tyga has an impressive resume: He has collaborated with Fall Out Boy, Gym Class Heroes and Lil' Wayne and is signed to Pete Wentz's (Fall Out Boy) label, Decaydance Records. His solo project, "No Introduction," will be released June 10.

The second act was hip-hop duo KidZ in the Hall. Consisting of MC Naledge (pronounced Knowledge) and producer/DJ Double-O, this group brought up-tempo hits and creative beats to the stage, maintaining the crowd's hype. From the duo's continuous calls, "Pump your fists in the air ... Put ya hands in the sky and rock with me," to their featured guest who sported a curly Mohawk and a keytar to match, their strong chemistry and Chi-town sound lit the crowd.

"You're coming to a party, not a show. We do that real hip-hop," Naledge proclaimed.

DJ Double-O swerved in and out of hip-hop and club jams, starting with Timbaland's recent hit, "Way I Are."

With Naledge's smooth, metaphor-over Double O's pulsating, crafty loops, their delivery of their last song and first single off their second album, "The In Crowd," "Drivin' Down the

Block," had the crowd members waving their hands left to right, and Naledge breaking out into a two-step.

The next act, I Am the Avalanche, strayed from the hip-hop scene.

"We don't play hip-hop music," Lead singer Vinnie Caruana said.

The crowd didn't seem to mind. I Am the Avalanche broke out the heavy drums and guitars to bring some shock value and ear-splitting screams to the crowd.

"Get up and come on over," Caruana told the audience as he broke out into the band's first song, "The Brooklyn Dodgers."

The indie rock band is composed of 5 members: guitarists Michael Ireland and Brandon Swanson, bassist Kellen Robson, drummer Brett "Ratt" Romnes and singer Caruana. With an emo/punk sound, these rockers brought a certain edge to the concert.

"William and Mary — this is a school I couldn't get into. This is real," Caruana joked.

Their set ended with the lead singer reaching out to the crowd, the guitarists jumping off the drum set and the drummer throwing his drum sticks into the crowd — a perfect rock finish.

By 9 p.m., the crowd had become delirious with excitement for Gym Class Heroes. The band's drummer, Matt McGinley, was the first to

See GYM CLASS page 7

CONFUSION CORNER

Punk'd, pranked by facebook fools

Charlotte Savino
FLAT HAT COLUMNIST



I really dislike Ashton Kutcher and his self-referential comedy empire. I hate the idea of being punk'd or that I can no longer trust the tabloid photographs because of "Pop Fiction." After this past April Fool's Day, however, I think he might be on to something. Just by changing my Facebook relationship status, I was able to convince my circle of friends that I was, at the tender age of 21, engaged.

It just goes to show how much Facebook dictates reality. I changed my relationship status at midnight, and by 9 a.m., I began to receive congratulations. Despite my guilt and anxiety, my plan fell into place. I didn't actually have to tell anyone; the News Feed was my free announcement.

Of course, I needed three accomplices: the fiancée, the roommate and my former "It's Complicated" relationship partner. I'm glad I cleared it with him first. As backup, my roommate loomed around looking sullen and apathetic, pretending to be happy for me.

Oddly though, I found I was really good at pretending to be engaged. Everything sprang from my mouth without rehearsal. Why no ring? Oh, it's getting sized. You know me and my giant man-hands. Sometimes I said that we both felt that engagement rings were anti-feminist. I said that there were more important things to spend money on. All of these sentiments are completely true; my lies weren't lies, just the context.

I will admit that timing played a big part in the prank. Sunday marked our two-year anniversary, he came to town to visit and there was a newly posted Facebook photo of me and the betrothed looking painfully happy..

As I went through the day, I found myself happier. I enjoyed the attention, the validation of my relationship. I even felt somehow more viable. Friends came out of the woodwork to express excitement and praise my choice. Granted, I can only imagine what they said behind my back.. As I write this column, I'm waiting for the clock to strike midnight and the status to be removed. I will miss my day as a pseudo-engaged woman.

So I suppose Facebook does dictate reality. It certainly had me fooled. My accomplices and I agreed that it really did feel like I was engaged. I enjoyed it. After spewing disdain for barely legal marriages and shotgun weddings, here I was tricking myself into thinking these 24 hours were to con other people.

There is far too much to do and far too little mapped out to actually stick with the hoax. Plus, what an awful story to tell people: "Oh, well, actually we were engaged as an April Fool's joke and it just kind of ... stuck."

Some people couldn't completely hide their shock and disdain. And I really appreciated the genuine shock. I'd hope people would know me better than to believe I'd stumble into a commitment so early. I hope I'd know myself that well, too.

Charlotte Savino is a Confusion Corner columnist. She plans to create a Facebook event to invite guests to her real wedding.

Bhangra makes its mark

The Bhangra dance team hosts its first show Friday in the UC

By KASI KANGARLOO
Flat Hat Variety Editor

If you were to come across a member of the College bhangra team, there's a good chance you'd get a sudden, unexpected preview of one their shows — the team T-shirts bear a slogan that reads "A dance. A life-style. An addiction."

"That really applies to the mindset," Anoop Kochar '10, one of the team captains, said.

According to Kochar, the members practice their routine whenever and wherever they can, experimenting with moves at the onset of any music.

"We do bhangra everywhere," he said. "It definitely becomes an addiction."

Though the dance is immensely popular throughout India, it originated specifically from the Punjab region and was performed during times of celebration or harvest. It was traditionally a more improvised dance — a far cry from today's fully choreographed shows.

The dance is set to traditional Punjab music, which has been showcased extensively in contemporary pop songs. Colorful attire is also an important part of the tradition.

The College club creates a five to seven-minute routine each year, perfecting the moves with two- to three-hour practices once a week. During the week before a show, the group holds three-hour practices almost every day.

"For a show like tomorrow it's been really intense," Crystal Nwokorie '10, a member of the junior varsity team, said about rehearsals for Friday's show.

The intensity was evident during practice, as a few members could barely finish the routine by the last half-hour.

The choreography for each routine is actually constructed in a kind of open forum, with each member contributing ideas. One member, Ben Yoo '11, has brought his experience as a break dancer to the team.

"Each person's influence ends up in the routine," Kochar said. "There are little stylistic elements you wouldn't have seen last year."

Kochar was actually involved with the group before he even attended the College, as it was co-founded by his sister, Aveena Kochar '07, in 2004. Kochar's extensive experience as a dancer made him an ideal choice for instructing the team's male dancers.

Before he finished up his freshman year, the team had elected him as a captain, a task he found challenging while adjusting to college life.

See BHANGRA page 7

Dance your heart out, Pointe Blank

By ASHLEY MORGAN
Flat Hat Variety Editor

Combining the style of Broadway musicals, fast-paced dance music and everything in between, Pointe Blank presents its spring show Sunday with new and improved dances that highlight the diverse styles and abilities of the group's members.

"We go from a gansta hip-hop dance to emotional lyrical dances to high energy Broadway dances," Lisa Bateman '09, president of Pointe Blank, said. "I think this makes the show really fun for the audience."

The show opens with a dance called "Griar en el Fuego," a vibrant and lively hip-hop dance choreographed by Sana Klein '11.

"This dance is straight-up baller," Bateman said. "It's a hip-hop dance to a mix of the songs 'Fuego' and 'Gyrate' ... and there's not much else to say except that it's pretty bad-ass." The dance combines these songs with recent dance moves, resulting in a more modern dance.

This show includes more types of music and dance than past Pointe Blank performances have.

"This semester, our show features a number from the Broadway musical-turned-movie 'Hairspray,' 'The Ladies' Choice,' co-choreographed by Lisa Bateman and [myself], and

a number from the musical 'Fosse,' 'Bye Bye Blackbird,' choreographed by Lydia Higgs '10," Pointe Blank Publicity Officer Hannah Gardner '11 said.

The Broadway-inspired dances are some of the members' favorite to perform and choreograph.

"The tap dance ['Bye, Bye Blackbird'] is a Broadway show-inspired piece with five dancers," Higgs said. "It features technical tap sounds ... and a short kickline. The jazz piece is a technical duet and features several difficult leaps and a

turn sequence."

Since the group has expanded to include male dancers this semester, Pointe Blank includes more variation in dancers' moves.

"Last semester was the first time since I've been in the company that there were no boys," Bateman said. "While last semester's show was wonderful, the boys definitely add to our dynamic. We have a wonderful lyrical dance with partner lifts choreographed by Kathryn Hansen '10

See DANCE page 7



SPENCER ATKINSON — THE FLAT HAT
Pointe Blank rehearses various dance moves for their spring show, Sunday.

Tube Time

TV MOMENT OF THE WEEK
Lindsay Lohan made an appearance April 2 on TMZ TV posing as a member of the paparazzi stalking herself, picking out breakfast cereals.



Star Sense

“I’m honored to have Heidi [Montag]’s support and I want to assure her that I never miss an episode of ‘The Hills;’ especially since the new season started.”
— Senator John McCain tells “Time”



Addictive Vid

YouTube: “Hillary’s Fucking Obama”
On the bed, on the floor, on the towel by the door.
YouTube: “Gnome in Argentina”
A mysterious figure terrifies Argentine teens.

WEEKEND UPDATE

Relay for Life

Anyone can be a hero this weekend by participating in Relay For Life. Beginning at 7 p.m. tonight on Busch Field and lasting until 7 a.m. tomorrow morning, this year’s themed event, “SuperHeroes” will feature games and entertainment throughout the night. Start a team and help raise money for cancer research. **Apr. 4-5**



Tapes ‘n Tapes — “Walk It Off”



Minneapolis band Tapes ‘n Tapes is walking to raise money for cancer research as well. They are promoting their second album “Walk It Off” by encouraging fans to register in their towns for races and walks supporting breast cancer research as “Team Tapes ‘n Tapes.” As incentive, the indie band is awarding an autographed copy of their new

album to the team in each city that raises the most money. **Apr. 8**

Persepolis (Sony)

This animated film, released last December, focuses on an Iranian girl whose life is rocked by the Iranian Revolution when the Islamic Republic comes to power. This black and white, foreign language is award-winning. It follows a young girl, Marjane, as she confronts her new regime and defies its oppressive regulations. **Playing at Kimball Theater Apr. 2-11**



HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

His body is a wonderland

Hollywood gossip queen Perez Hilton claims he made out with an apparently bisexual John Mayer in a recent issue of Life & Style magazine. According to Hilton’s blog, the pair hooked up at club Stereo in New York City. “John’s a really good kisser,” Hilton exclaimed. Mayer’s rep may not have officially denied the claim, but he did allude to the incident on his blog, claiming that his entries are “about a young man ... who has wrestled with a lifelong battle for acceptance as a gay man.”



O! It’s a boy?

Oprah Winfrey welcomed Thomas Beatie, the “pregnant man,” to her show April 3. Beatie, a transgender who underwent surgery in 2002 to become male, kept his female reproductive organs in hopes of one day having a child, he told Oprah. After undergoing artificial insemination, Beatie is now six months pregnant. Beatie told Oprah on the show, “I’m a person and I have a right to have my own biological child.” Beatie and his wife Nancy are expecting a girl around July 3.

Anderson’s favorite Galaxy

CNN heartthrob has expensive taste in underwear. After an interview with soccer player and Armani underwear poster boy David Beckham in which Anderson Cooper autographed Armani ad off Becks, Cooper went on a shopping spree for his renowned undies. OK! Magazine reports the news anchor was spotted trying to be inconspicuous in the Macy’s underwear department in NYC. Eyewitnesses however were reportedly unimpressed by Cooper’s size selection — small.



Don’t get mad, get even

George Clooney sure knows how to deal with the tabloid media. After rumors — untrue rumors, to be precise — spread that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie were to be married at Clooney’s Italian villa, the paparazzi swarmed. According to Hollyscoop, the dangerous mind confessed he kept them going. From a film set abroad, he ordered his staff to set up tables reminiscent of a wedding reception on the grounds.
— by Alice Hahn & Pam Snyder

CRITICAL CONDITION

Star-studded casts don’t always make the cut

Mathew Falwell

CRITICAL CONDITION COLUMNIST



I have a serious confession to make: I could snap at any moment. If I see one more report on the evening news about Lindsey Lohan’s latest crack-binge or Brad and Angelina’s relationship secrets, I can’t be responsible for the inhuman rage that will drive me to destroy Tinseltown once and for all. It seems like the media bows down before the socially dysfunctional elite like they’re modern-day Greek gods walking among us. Why do we allow this, when undiscovered actors are as engaging and talented as those atop the mountain? They can’t be any crazier than the current batch, either.

What really irks me is that A-list celebrities aren’t remotely a requirement for celluloid success, whether the medium is the small or the silver screen. A lot of TV shows and films are fine without a superstar among their ranks and a great many of them are better for it.

Take “Batman Begins,” for example. In what many call the best Batman movie, Christian Bale rose from almost complete obscurity to become one of the most sought-after actors in Hollywood. He played his part spectacularly, but his performance was well-received in part because of having a fresh face. The last few Batman films were mega flops, and whether you blame it on ubiquitous bat-nipples or not, someone new was needed to revive the dark knight. Putting a new face to a failing series can really help to wash away that stale taste you get when you realize they’re making another sequel to a franchise that should have ended years ago.

Another well-cast film without any star power is J.J. Abrams’ “Cloverfield.” Earlier this year, the monster masterpiece ripped a chunk out of the box office without the help of a single headlining actor, human or otherwise. If you’ve seen the film, you know part of its draw is the believability of its characters — all played by big-screen newbies — and the way they react to a terrifying monster attack. The film worked because at no point were the protagonists fighting to defend humanity; they were average Joes and Janes, scared out of their wits and looking out for number one. Casting Tom Cruise or Alec Baldwin, who I really respect as actors, would have completely negated the authentic

experience and turned it into just another lame monster movie.

“Lost” is a perfect example of a television show succeeding for the same kind of reasons. The motley castaways wouldn’t be nearly as engaging with a smiling Matt Damon among their ranks. A definite plus exclusive to television shows is that almost all of the actors have proven their chops but never had a breakthrough role. The payoff is that the cast isn’t nearly as difficult to retain for the duration of the program. You could never make a six-year contract with a big-name star unless he were the main character. A show like “Lost” — with tons of interweaving storylines and a spotlight that changes faster than a shy adolescent in the locker room before gym class — could never have an undisputed lead.

Despite the obvious benefits to a humble cast, some people make viewing choices solely on whether a film is well-stocked with their favorite film veterans. Truly the television gods have played a cruel hand, tricking so many. Even the greatest actors of our day aren’t guaranteed to deliver quality. Tom Hanks might be the nicest guy in Hollywood, but he could drive anyone to anger with his involvement in the Coen brothers’ failure, “The Ladykillers.” Even Johnny Depp, arguably the most adventurous star in the business, has overstepped his bounds more than once with “Nick of Time,” “Secret Window” and “Freddy’s Dead: The Final Nightmare.”

I’m not trying to player-hate on tried-and-true actors; I know it’s not their fault they’ve reached Olympian status. Having an elite group of superstars is the symptom of a greater problem in film today. There’s a shortage of original material and studios are churning out the same recycled plots and stories. Many critics called 2007 “the year of the sequel,” due to the mammoth number of re-shashes and comebacks that littered the scene.

The bottom line is, it’s nice to see the movie studios mix things up every now and then. Realistically, I know it’s hopeless to pine away for a day when Britney-watch is no more. We’ll always have our share of over-hyped divas making asses out of themselves for their 15 minutes, so there’s no point in calling for an all-out revolution against the thespian upper-class. Not yet, anyway. Until that day, stay strong, revolutionaries.

Mathew Falwell is a Critical Condition Columnist. He owns every movie featuring Brangelina.

Gym Class Heroes rock out rhymes

GYM CLASS from page 6

appear. Pumping the audience up with his peppermint-swirled drum set, McGinley boosted the crowd’s anticipation with a faux start. Then, the rest of the band — guitarist Disashi Lumumba-Kasongo, bassist Eric Roberts and a background hype-man — took their places on stage as the audience awaited the arrival of theatrical charmer and lead singer Travis McCoy.

“We came here to have sex with your ear vaginas,” McCoy said as he emerged.

The band began its set with the song, “Shoot Down the Stars.”

“I want to apologize for not coming here sooner to West Virginia,” McCoy erred, missing a few points with the crowd for mixing up the states. He was quickly forgiven, though, when he showed off a song from their new album, “The Quilt” called “Blinded by the Sun.”

An up-tempo, rock-steady vibe surrounded the amphitheater as McCoy borrowed and switched up the hook from Corey Hart’s hit “Sunglasses At Night,” to rhyme: “I wear my sunglasses at night / to spy on my girlfriend.”



MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT

Gym Class Heroes front-man Travis McCoy delivered a slew of flirtatious rhymes, a number of them from songs on the band’s upcoming album, “The Quilt.”

With its third album scheduled for a June release, Gym Class Heroes has come a long way since its start in Geneva, N.Y.

The band has formulated a modern twist on rap-rock fusion, clearly influenced by artists like Run DMC and Rage Against the Machine. Where Gym Class Heroes maintains its originality is in the band’s clever,

witty approach to its lyrics, mostly written by McCoy, and its lively instrumentation.

The band’s performance on stage was noteworthy, as the funny and flirtatious paramour McCoy kept the girls reaching for their zippers, and the guys ready to grab a few tips on dating, music or otherwise, from the rest of the crew.

Bhangra hosts first campus show

BHANGRA from page 6

“I was very unsure of how to run an organization like this,” Kochar said. “The team really helped me through it.”

Along with co-captain Sahaj Kohli ’10, Kochar has worked to expand the team’s presence on campus, pushing for more performances and greater awareness of the dance’s history and cultural significance. The team also participates in university competitions across the state, having placed third

overall earlier this semester at the University of Mary Washington.

The Friday show, entitled “Born 2 Bhangra,” is the first campus event that exclusively features bhangra performances.

In past years the group has only performed for fundraisers or opened for other groups, but Kochar stated that this show is part of the team’s effort to expand the program.

The team has created a few new routines specifically for the show, and will also perform its original dance

as a grand finale. The Old Dominion University bhangra team will also be performing.

“It’s exciting for us because it’s our own event,” Kochar said.

Also included in the show is an audience participation portion, giving audience members the chance to be called onstage and learn some steps. A raffle for private bhangra lessons will also be held.

The show is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday in the University Center Commonwealth. Tickets are \$3 at the door.

Pointe Blank widens scope of dance

DANCE from page 6

that we would never be able to do without male performers.”

Another modification the male dancers bring to the performance is the return of the all-male dance.

“This semester marks the return of the ‘Boys’ Dance,’” Bateman said. “This dance is generally a silly, fun dance put together by the male performers a few weeks before the show — but not this year. Kyle Brent ’10 choreographed the dance at the beginning of the year, and the boys have been practicing hard every week to perfect it.”

All the dances Pointe Blank performs are student-choreographed.

“Lisa [Bateman] and I tried to choreograph ‘The Ladies’ Choice’ with the Hairspray style in mind — keeping the steps quick and stylized,” Gardner said. “We included some fun partner work, flips and lifts ... [W]e have Matt LaBrie ’11 acting as the singer of the song, Link Larkin, to make the dance even more entertaining.”

Performances are Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium. Tickets are \$4 at the door, and \$1 from every ticket will be donated to AIDS Tanzania.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S GOLF

Whitney's 79 leads College to seventh-place finish

Freshman Sarah Whitney fired two consistent rounds of 79 and 80 to post a 12th-place finish this week at Longwood University's Tina Barrett Invitational, leading the Tribe to a seventh-place finish. Fellow freshmen Avi Hockfield and Katie Murphy also placed in the top 50, finishing in ties for 20th and 42nd, respectively, while senior Erika Oldenkamp tied for 34th. The squad will be back in action Monday and Tuesday, traveling to Wallace, N.C., for the University of North Carolina — Wilmington's Lady Seahawk Invitational.

MEN'S TENNIS

Cojanu, Pagon named CAA Doubles Team of the Week

Senior Alex Cojanu and junior Dominic Pagon, fresh off an undefeated week in which they upset nationally ranked opponents Sebastian Ripoll and Emil Lindgren of Virginia Commonwealth University, received the CAA's Doubles Team of the Week award, garnering the honor for the second time this season. Cojanu and Pagon's performance against VCU raised the duo to the no. 39 ranking in the latest ITA poll.

—By Matt Poms

SCHEDULE

Fri., Apr. 4

MEN'S GOLF

@ Marshall Invitational —
Huntington, W. Va.

MEN'S TENNIS

vs. Western Michigan —
South Bend, Ind.

MEN'S GYMNASTICS

@ ECAC Championship —
West Point, N.Y.

LACROSSE

@ James Madison — 7 p.m.

BASEBALL

@ Georgia State — 6 p.m.

Sat., Apr. 5

MEN'S GOLF

@ Marshall Invitational —
Huntington, W. Va.

MEN'S GYMNASTICS

@ ECAC Championship —
West Point, N.Y.

BASEBALL

@ Georgia State — 1 p.m.

Sun., Apr. 6

MEN'S TENNIS

@ Notre Dame — 10 a.m.

LACROSSE

GEORGE MASON — 1 p.m.

BASEBALL

@ Georgia State — 1 p.m.

BASEBALL

Sheridan's two blasts drown out Flames

By MATT POMS

Flat Hat Assoc. Sports Editor

TRIBE 9, LIBERTY 7

For most collegiate players, a two-game hitless streak is nothing to get upset about. However, when the player in question ranks among the most efficient hitters in the nation, even a minor blip in production can cause a bit of concern.

After posting a slight .238 batting average over his last five games, junior first baseman Mike Sheridan blasted out of his brief slump Tuesday night, powering the Tribe to a 9-7 defeat of Liberty University. Utilizing two timely

home runs, Sheridan's two for three effort capped a back-and-forth game which saw the College extend its winning streak to three games.

After Sheridan launched a two-run first inning homer to give the Tribe an early lead, sophomore starting pitcher Cody Winslow struggled, allowing a pair of runs in the bottom half of the frame, followed by three more an inning later as Liberty built a 5-4 advantage. The teams again traded a pair of runs in the fifth inning, before Sheridan put his squad back on top, driving a seventh-inning pitch over the left field fence for another two-run homer to give the College an 8-6 lead.

With Winslow exiting after four and two-third innings, Head Coach Frank Leoni called on his bullpen to hold the narrow margin, and the unit performed impressively for the third straight contest. Sophomore Tyler Truxell and seniors Sean Grieve and Pat Kantakevich combined to post four and one-third strong innings, yielding just a single run to preserve the victory.

The win was an important one for the Tribe as the squad picked up yet another comeback victory despite the early deficit.

"I think our guys are accustomed to playing in these types of games," Leoni said. "Our mindset is to keep fighting until the final out."



COURTESY PHOTO — W&M SPORTS INFORMATION
Junior first baseman Mike Sheridan.

COLONIAL RELAYS

Still running strong



COURTESY PHOTO — W&M SPORTS INFORMATION

Senior Allie Lewis, junior Rebecca Ward and sophomore Emily Anderson toe the starting line before the 800-m race at last year's Colonial Relays.

College set to host storied Colonial Relays at Zable Stadium for 43rd year

By ANDREW PIKE

Flat Hat Sports Editor

For 43 years, the Colonial Relays has offered track and field fans a glimpse of some of the world's finest athletes. From former 1,500-meter world record holder Sydney Maree to 2000 gold medalist LaTasha Colander, the event has featured Olympians, gold medalists, world and American record holders and countless All-Americans.

This weekend's meet features 16 All-Americans, including Tribe senior Christo Landry, when a contingent of teams compete at Zable Stadium. Distance powerhouses Georgetown University and Iona University, and sprinters from Seton Hall University, headline the competitors.

"The fields across the board are going to be great," men's Head Coach Alex Gibby said. "Some of the best college teams, in some instances in the country, will be here and certainly in some instances in the east."

In the past, the College has hosted a meet the weekend prior to the relays, and track teams from the north have trained in Williamsburg during spring break.

"It was great to see all the athletes running around the campus and all over Williamsburg, and to be walking around and hear the speakers blaring with results and announcing upcoming races," Ken Halla '86 said.

Halla, a four-time All-American, won the 10,000-m race in 1985, a year after he broke the school record for that distance in his first-ever 10K. He noted that the Colonial Relays were often a steppingstone to greater performances. His victory in 1985 led him to an impressive 70-second improvement on his personal record at the Penn Relays. Additionally, when coach Roy Chernock held him out of the 5,000-m in 1986, he turned in a memorable race at the Penn Relays, winning the 10,000-m.

Gibby also mentioned the importance of performances at the Colonial Relays as catalysts to great races.

"Every year I ran at the relays, I had a breakthrough in terms of performance, and it keyed off usually very productive outdoor track seasons for me," Gibby said.

In addition to the races, the meet also creates an opportunity for track alumni to return to the College.

Last year, Halla, Shelby Hawthorne '67 and Brian Hyde

'96 organized a reunion to coincide with the Colonial Relays. In attendance at the Alumni House event were 150 alumni, as well as members of the track squad. Halla hopes to continue organizing reunions every few years.

Hawthorne noted that reunions give current athletes a chance to meet the College's record holders so they can see these past performers as more than just names on a wall.

Although no official reunion is scheduled for this year's Colonial Relays, alumni will still flock back to the College to take part in one of the longest-running meets in the country, second only to the Penn Relays.

"Even when it's not a big reunion, alumni come back," Hawthorne said.

The Hawthornes will be hosting guests at their home all weekend long in what Hawthorne termed a ritual. She has seen 42 of the 43 Colonial Relays, while her husband Randy '67 has attended every meet.

"More than the great races has always been the atmosphere that surrounded — still surrounds — the meet," Halla said. "The meet continues to have a warm spot in our hearts."

FROM THE SIDELINES

Final Four predictions: Our staff sorts out the madness

Memphis Tigers



Miles Hilder

FLAT HAT SPORTS EDITOR



Memphis will emerge as the NCAA champion thanks to freshman guard Derrick Rose and the most astounding collection of athletes in the tournament. Rose has the ball-handling, defense and game management skills to carry the Tigers, as was highlighted in his dominating 21-point, nine assist performance over Texas in the Elite Eight. He also played tenacious defense and effectively controlled an up-tempo Memphis attack that ran all over the Longhorns. Expect Rose to do the same Saturday against UCLA, with Memphis spreading the court and allowing Chris Douglas-Roberts, Robert Dozier and Joey Dorsey to run wild. Rose will serve as conductor of the madness with effective passing and timely shooting. Once UCLA is dispatched, the Tigers will be able to control Kansas the same way they handled the Bruins, or out-hustle UNC to capture the championship.

E-mail Miles Hilder at mehild@wm.edu.

UCLA Bruins



Andrew Pike

FLAT HAT SPORTS EDITOR



UCLA will not return home to Westwood without a title this year. Earning its third-straight Final Four appearance, the Bruins will ride experience and the stellar play of Kevin Love to the title. Over the course of the season and throughout the tournament, UCLA has been tested unlike any other Final Four team. The Bruins survived plenty of close games in Pac-10 play and shook off sub-par performances against Texas A&M and Western Kentucky to dominate Xavier. Darren Collison and Josh Shipp provide UCLA with great experience and leadership, while Love gives them a little bit of everything. The Bruins have proven all year long that they can lock down opponents defensively and score when they need it. Their defense always keeps them in games and will allow them to wear down Memphis before taking out Kansas Monday night.

E-mail Andrew Pike at aapike@wm.edu.

UNC Tar Heels



Chris Weidman

FLAT HAT ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR



North Carolina did not ride a roller coaster of a NCAA season just to settle for second; the Tar Heels danced for a championship. After losing only twice during the regular season, North Carolina won their four tourney games by an average margin of 25.2 points and have not tasted defeat in their last 15 contests. Tyler Hansbrough and his supporting cast have been unstoppable in the last month, leaving opponents little hope of halting them now. Hansbrough's inside game has flourished and his mid-range jumper has made his capabilities deadly. The junior averaged 29.2 points in Lawson's absence earlier this season and showed his gutsier side against Louisville in the Elite Eight, exploding for 20 second-half points. No player can take a game over like this Tar Heels' forward and there is a good chance he will take UNC all the way.

E-mail Chris W. at cnweidman@wm.edu.

Kansas Jayhawks



Matt Poms

FLAT HAT ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR



After three straight years of tough NCAA tournament defeats, Kansas is ready to break through with its first national title in 20 years. Boasting a deep and athletic squad, the Jayhawks are extremely versatile, capable of containing the high-octane offenses of UNC and Memphis, while also possessing the shooters needed to break down UCLA's tight defense. Leading the nation in scoring margin at 21 ppg, a healthy Brandon Rush will couple with the steady senior leadership of point guard Russell Robinson to take down a Tar Heel squad that has not been seriously challenged since the ACC tournament. In the championship game, expect the Jayhawks to prevail in a defensive battle over UCLA, as Mario Chalmers will lead a balanced Kansas attack to bring the title back to Lawrence and restore one of college basketball's marquee programs to the forefront of the national game.

E-mail Matt Poms at mbpoms@wm.edu.